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(21)Application number : 07-094234 (71)Applicant : TAKAOKA ELECTRIC MFG CO LTD
(22)Date of filing : 29.03.1995 (72)Inventor : HAGIWARA HIDEKAZU

(54) COMMUNICATION CONTROLLER

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To monitor abnormality of a LAN and inform the host computer of the abnormality by detecting abnormality of two-series of LANs by a communication controller and performing switching to the LAN of the normal system.

CONSTITUTION: Communication controllers 2, 3, and 6 are connected to the two series of LANs 4 and 5, and the host computer 1 or a work station 7 to perform communication control. The master communication controller 2 communicates with the client communication controller 6 to detect abnormality of the LANs 4 and 5. For the purpose, the controller 2 recognizes all address information of the controller 6. The slave communication controller 3 always copies the information of the controller 2 and performs abnormality of the LANs 4 and 5 even if the controller 2 is shut down. The controllers 2, 3, and 6 can inform the computer 1 or work station 7 of abnormality information with the TCP/IP protocol. A communication controller 8 has three LAN I/Fs 9, 11, and 12. An input packet from the I/F 9 is transferred by a LAN switching part 10 to the I/F 11 or I/F 12. A LAN control part 13 performs switching control in response to abnormality of the two-series of LANs.

